



Schedule for Administering Chemoprophylaxis for Meningococcal Disease

Drug	Age Group	Dosage	Duration	Administration
Rifampin*	Children aged < 1 month	5mg/kg every 12 hours	2 days	Oral
	Children aged ≥ 1 month	10 mg/kg every 12 hours	2 days	Oral
	Adults	600 mg every 12 hours	2 days	Oral
Ciprofloxacin†	Adults ≥ 18 years	500 mg	Single dose	Oral
Ceftriaxone (Rocephin®)	Children aged < 15 years	125 mg	Single dose	IM §
	Adolescents and adults ≥ 15 years	250 mg	Single dose	IM §

* Rifampin is not recommended for pregnant women because the drug is teratogenic in laboratory animals. Because the reliability of oral contraceptives may be affected by rifampin therapy, alternative contraceptive measures should be considered while rifampin is being administered.

† Ciprofloxacin is not generally recommended for persons < 18 years of age or for pregnant and lactating women because the drug causes cartilage damage in immature laboratory animals. However, ciprofloxacin can be used for chemoprophylaxis of children when no acceptable alternative therapy is available. Recent literature review identified no reports of irreversible cartilage toxicity or age-associated adverse events among children and adolescents (Source: Burstein GR, Berman SM, Blumer JL, Moran JS. Ciprofloxacin for the treatment of uncomplicated gonorrhea infection in adolescents: does the benefit outweigh the risk? Clin Infect Dis 2002;35:S191-9).

§ Intramuscular.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2005;54(No. RR-7):16.

Meningococcal Disease (invasive) is a mandatory reportable condition in North Dakota. All suspect and confirmed cases should be reported immediately to the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2378 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.